

SALPA MAXIMA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus liberum, gelatinosum, utroque apice apertum, intus vacuum: intestino obliquo.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3129.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

SALPA utroque apice appendiculato.

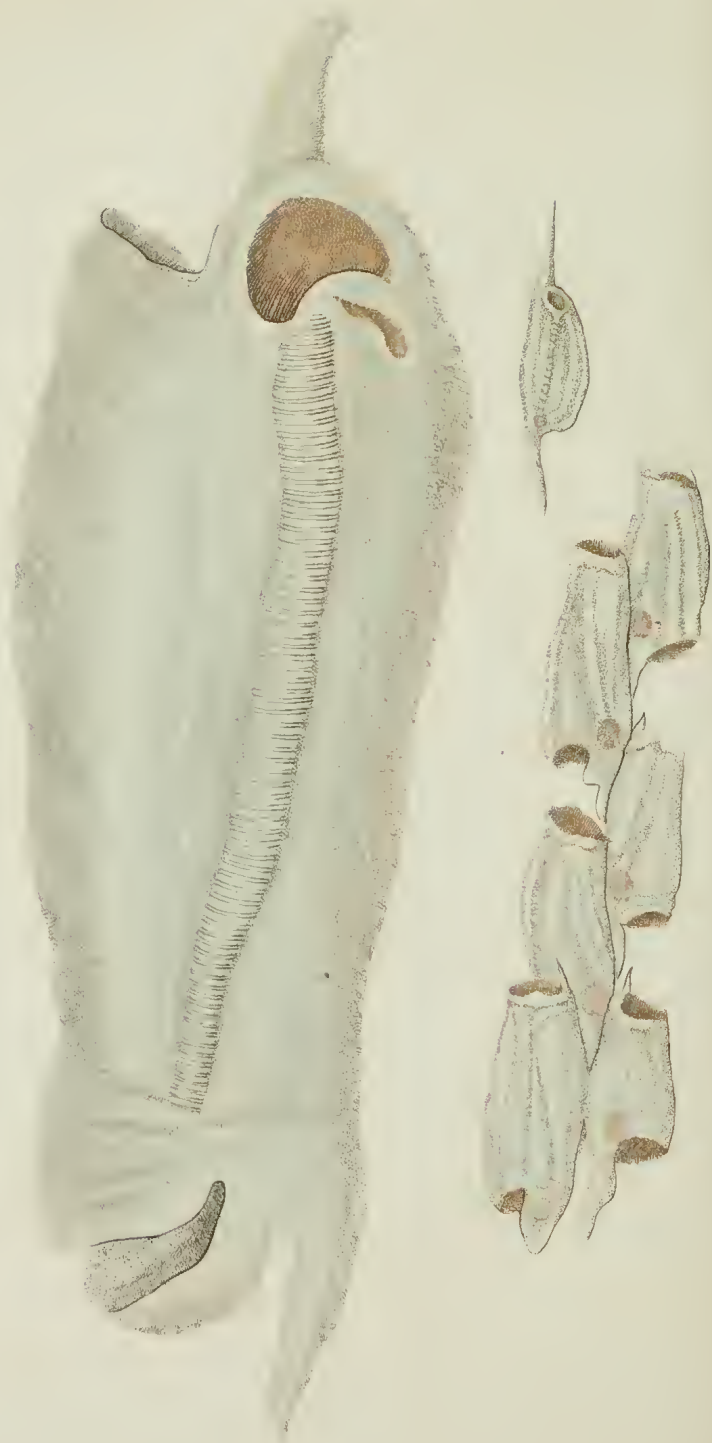
Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3129.

Forsk. Fn. Aegypt. Arab. p. 12. n. 130.

A quo tempore publicata est systematis Linnæani duodecima editio, auctus est in tantum zoologiæ campus, ut in plerisque animalium divisionibus, in nullis vero magis quam in Molluscis nova genera instituere necesse esset. Inter hæc eminet genus Salpa, quod animalia continet forma, ut plurimum, subquadrata et elongata, quorum corpus tubulatum et gelatum, apice utroque aperto, viscerum ramosorum vestigia subobscura intus ostendit: quæ tamen in nonnullis speciebus evidentius cernuntur. Gregatim eunt Salpæ, celerrime natantes, possuntque extremitates utrasque ad libitum vel contrahere vel dilatare. Perlucidæ admodum sunt, et interdum splendide

splendide varieque versicolores. Multas sæpe cernere est sibi invicem adhærentes, lateribus conjunctis.

Videtur summa esse affinitas Salparum generi cum Dagyzis, primo detectis a Josepho Banks, et Solandro, prope littora Hispanica. Possent fortasse hæc duo genera recte satis confociari. Salpæ fere omnes in mari Mediterraneo nascuntur.



THE GREAT SALPA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body tubular, nayant, open at each extremity,
furnished with an oblique intestine.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

SALPA with an appendicle at each extremity.

The field of zoology has been so much enlarged by the discoveries made since the twelfth edition of the *Systema Naturæ* of Linnæus, that it has been found necessary to institute a variety of new genera in most of the divisions of the animal kingdom. In the division *Mollusca* these new genera are particularly conspicuous, and form not the least curious additions to the history of Nature. The genus *Salpa* may be numbered amongst the most striking. The *Salpæ*, in general, are of an elongated and somewhat squarish form, and consist of an oblong, tubular body, open at each extremity, and marked in the interior structure with some obscure appearance of ramified viscera; which are much more apparent in some species than in others. They are of a gregarious nature, and swim with great facility: possessing

ness the power of contracting or opening at pleasure the cavity of their extremities; they are very transparent, and sometimes exhibit a rich appearance of varying colors. Several are frequently found adhering closely together in a lateral direction. It may not be improper to add that the animals of the genus *Salpa* seem extremely nearly allied to those of the genus *Dagyza*, first discovered by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, near the coasts of Spain. Perhaps the two genera of *Salpa* and *Dagyza* might be incorporated without any violation of propriety: the *Salpæ*, in general, are natives of the Mediterranean sea.